REMARKS

In an Advisory Action dated December 11, 2007, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-13 and 20 are allowed, and that claims 14-19 were rejected. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-13 and 20 are allowed, and look forward to obtaining allowance of these claims. In addition, Applicants confirmed with the Examiner in a telephone interview on December 20, 2007 that claims 16 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, as previously indicated in the Final Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants request entry of the amendment to claim 14 (set forth above) which is submitted to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 19 into claim 14. With the proposed amendment, claims 14-18 would be allowed also. If, however, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 14-19, Applicants request in the alternative that claims 14-19 be cancelled in order to expedite allowance of the application. Whichever claims are cancelled, Applicants are not conceding in this application that these claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amendments are permitted under 37 CFR § 1.116(b)(1), and respectfully request that claims 1-18 and 20 be allowed. In the alternative, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-13 and 20 be allowed as indicated in the Advisory Action.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 512-338-9100.

FILED ELECTRONICALLY
December 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

/Michael Rocco Cannatti/

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